

FRED

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April 4, 1970

Mr. John Sharnik
Producer - CBS NEWS
Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc.
524 West 57 Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Mr. Sharnik:

Thank you very much for your prompt reply to my letter of February 12, 1970. Enclosed please find two glossy prints of the DALLAS TIMES HERALD story of April 24, 1963 - headlined "LBJ SEES KENNEDY DALLAS 'VISIT'".

For your information, these prints were made directly from the microfilm of that paper which was recently obtained from the University of Texas through inter-library loan facilities at the University of California at Los Angeles.

If time allows, could you answer one question for me? Your last letter states: "We were already aware of the incidents you mention and document."

If you had known about this enclosed item before, I would be very interested to know the source of your information.

I feel certain that this April 24th DALLAS TIMES HERALD story is not mentioned in any published work on the assassination, including books written by men who spent years researching the subject - Jim Bishop and William Manchester - nor is this story mentioned in any books written by any of the critics of the Warren Report.

I have noticed that your staff, and Mr. Cronkite, has not hesitated to rebut Mr. Johnson, where his statements are in conflict with the public record. One of the outstanding examples of this was your program concerning the bombing halt, where you ran the film clip of Dean Rusk testifying before the Foreign Relations Committee. Mr. Rusk's testimony here appeared to be in direct conflict with Mr. Johnson's version of the chronology of events.

Where these seeming conflicts in the historical record have arisen, Mr. Johnson has deftly turned these aside by producing heretofore unknown memos or quoting self-serving conversations with his intimates.

In this case, however, it would appear to me that the only way Mr. Johnson can square the April 24th story with the existing record would be for him to produce an earlier news story that would render this item insignificant. Mr. Johnson could claim, for example, that Kennedy asked HIM to arrange this Texas trip and display a clipping to prove it.

If this should happen, then we will be left to puzzle over the following story by John Connally, who dominated much of the trip planning and who is also very close to Mr. Johnson. Governor Connally tells of a meeting at the White House on October 4, 1963 with JFK, where a specific itinerary of the Texas trip is agreed upon. JFK approved Connally's plan and according to the Governor, said: "I'll accept your judgement on that John."

Connally goes on to say:

"I was having dinner that (same) night at the home of Vice President Johnson and when I arrived he had already learned that I had been with the President. He was distinctly irritated. He greeted me: "Well, did you all get the trip all worked out?" I said yes and he said, "I guess you think I have no interest in the state of Texas or in this visit?" I pointed out that I could hardly instruct the President as to his White House visitors, but Mr. Johnson was not mollified: "Well, I hope you know that I've got a slight interest in Texas and in this trip, too." I regretted my thoughtlessness in not discussing the plans with him, and I apologized."

LIFE MAGAZINE, page 100A
November 24, 1967

Governor Connally says that on October 4th he and President Kennedy agreed on a specific itinerary for the Texas trip and that this angered Mr. Johnson because he was not consulted.

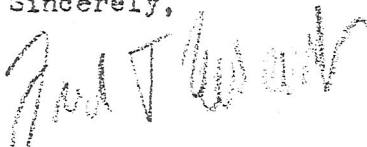
This story makes no sense in light of the facts. How could Mr. Johnson be angered over not having been consulted, when, six months earlier he had correctly announced this very same itinerary? The odds that one could predict the right cities and times of day for an unplanned event six months away are astronomical.

I'm sure you will agree, that the importance of this matter indicates that, historically speaking, it might be well to interview Kenneth O'Donnell, or better yet, Jerry Bruno, JFK's advance man. These men could either verify what you already have on video tape with Mr. Johnson, or dispute his account. Either way, you should have one whale of a show.

My family will be glued to our "set" on May 2nd to see Lyndon Johnson come out of his corner.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fred I. Newcomb", written in a cursive style.

FRED I. NEWCOMB

FIN:mkn

Enclosures